

In the Claims

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A molecule ~~which that~~ contains a ~~partially occluded and/or multimeric trimeric~~ presentation of a peptide which is ~~recognised~~ recognized by an HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibody ~~capable of neutralising diverse clinical isolates of HIV-1 selected from the group consisting of 2F5, IgG₁-b12, 4E10 and Z13, which molecule is stabilized by inter-chain disulfide bridging of the peptides.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in claim 1 wherein the peptide contained within the molecule is a linear epitope ~~of~~ recognized by the HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibody.

4. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in claim 1 which is a ~~homomultimer~~ homotrimer of a polypeptide chain which polypeptide chain contains a spacer portion, a linear epitope ~~recognised~~ recognized by the HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibody, a ~~multimerisation~~ multimerization portion and, optionally, a carrier portion, wherein the polypeptide chain has a molecular weight no more than 30 kDa.

5. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in claim 1 comprising a portion which is a linear epitope ~~recognised~~ recognized by the HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibody and an occluding portion.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in ~~claim 1~~ any of the preceding claims which is a ~~homomultimer~~ homotrimer of a polypeptide chain which contains a linear epitope which ~~recognises~~ recognizes the HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibody and an occluding

portion wherein the linear epitope is partially occluded by the occluding portion when the polypeptide chain is present in the ~~multimer~~ trimer.

8. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in any of claims 1 or 3-5 comprising a first polypeptide chain which contains a linear epitope ~~of~~ recognized by the HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibody and a second polypeptide chain which partially occludes the linear epitope on the first polypeptide chain.

9. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in claim 7 wherein the polypeptide chain contains an occluding portion, the linear epitope, a ~~multimerisation~~ multimerization portion and, optionally, a carrier portion.

10. (Currently Amended) A molecule as claimed in claim 8 wherein the first polypeptide chain contains (1) the linear epitope, (2) a ~~multimerisation~~ multimerization portion and, optionally, (3) a carrier portion, and the second polypeptide chain comprises an occluding portion, a ~~multimerisation~~ multimerization portion and, optionally, a carrier portion.

Claims 11-14 (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a molecule as claimed in any of claims 1 or 3-5, ~~or a trimeric or multimeric presentation of a peptide as defined in claim 1, or a polynucleotide encoding a peptide as defined in claim 1~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claims 16-22 (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) A vaccine for the prevention or treatment of HIV-1 infection which comprises a molecule as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8, ~~or a trimeric or multimeric presentation of a peptide as defined in claim 1, or a polynucleotide encoding a peptide as~~

~~defined in claim 1.~~

Claim 24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method of treating or preventing HIV-1 infection in an individual the method comprising administering to the individual a molecule as claimed in claim 1, ~~or a trimeric or multimeric presentation of a peptide as defined in claim 1, or a polynucleotide encoding a peptide as defined in claim 1.~~

26. (Currently Amended/Withdrawn) A method of detecting HIV-1 ~~neutralising~~ neutralizing antibodies in a sample the method comprising contacting the sample with a molecule as claimed in claim 1 ~~or a trimeric or multimeric presentation of a peptide as defined in claim 1~~ and determining whether any antibodies present in the sample bind thereto.

Claims 27-30 (Cancelled)

31. (New) A molecule according to any of claims 1 to 8 wherein the peptide or polypeptide chain contains adjacent cysteine residues.

Restriction Requirement

The claims were restricted into nine groups:

Group I, claims 1-12, 15 (as it reads on a molecule of claim 1 or a trimeric or multimeric presentation of a peptide as defined in claim 1) and 23 (as it reads on a molecule of claim 1 or a trimeric or multimeric presentation of a peptide as defined in claim 1), is directed to a molecule which contains a partially occluded and/or multimeric presentation of a peptide, which is recognised by an HIV-1 neutralizing antibody.

Group II, claims 13, 15 (as it reads on a polynucleotide) and 23 (as it reads on a polynucleotide) is directed to a polynucleotide that encodes a peptide.

Group III, claims 17-18 and 25, is directed to a method for obtaining an HIV-1 neutralizing antibody via a method for treating or preventing HIV1 infection that induces antibodies against HIV-1.

Group IV, claim 19, is directed to a method for obtaining an HIV-1 neutralizing antibody via phage display.

Group V, claims 20 and 22, is directed to an antibody and a composition comprising an antibody.

Group VI, claim 26, is directed to a method for detecting HIV-1 neutralizing antibodies.

Group VII, claims 27-28, is directed to a method for identifying a molecule, which may be useful in raising a neutralizing response to HIV-1.

Group VIII, claim 29, is directed to a molecule identified by the method of Group VII.

Group IX, claim 30, is directed to a method for treating or preventing HIV-1 infection by administering the antibody of Group V.